(c) whether there are any other loss making units in the coal sectors and what is the perspective plan of Government with regard to such units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) All subsidiaries of Coal India Limited (CIL) except Eastern coalfields Limited (ECL) and Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL) are earning profit. On ECL falling sick, it had to be referred to the Board for Industrial & Financial Reconstruction (BIFR). After several rounds of hearing BIFR vide its order dated 2nd November, 2004 has sanctioned a Draft Rehabilitation Scheme (DRS) of ECL under Sick Industrial Companies (Special provision) Act (SICA) for reviving and revamping the company. BCCL being sick, its management has also prepared a Draft Revival Plan for revival of BCCL. The revival packages involve restructuring the equity of the companies and other things on which the views of Ministry of Finance have been sought before the Central Government decides on the measures proposed in the DRS.

Use of Surface Mining Machines By SECL

†1447. SHRI RAMADHAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the names of locations in the country where surface mining machines are used for coal mining;

(b) the cost of mining by the surface mining machines alongwith the cost on manual mining of the coal;

(c) whether there is any plan to use surface mining by SECL;

(d) the reasons for cancellation of tenders invited for this purpose by SECL few years ago; and

(e) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) As reported by Coal India Limited, surface miners are in operation for coal mining in the following Mines:

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Belpahar, Lakhanpur, Lingaraj, Bharatpur, Hingula and Kalinga opencast mines of Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd. and Ashoka & Piparwar opencast mines of Central Coalfields Limited.

(b) In case of surface mine coal is directly cut by surface miners in opencast mines and the cost of cutting & loading into dumper/tippers varies from Rs.13.25 to 18.97 per tonne in different mines of Mahanadi Coalfields Limited.

There is no manual mining in Mahanadi Coalfields Limited's opencast mines.

In Ashoka opencast project of Central Coalfields Ltd. the awarded rate of extraction of coal / coal measures strata by deployment of surface miners and other allied equipment on hiring and transporting to a distance of 9-10 km. & unloading is Rs. 56.90 per tonne.

In Piparwar opencast project of Central Coalfields Ltd. the awarded rate of extraction of coal/coal measure strata by deploying surface miners and other allied equipment on hiring basis is Rs. 31.95 per cubic meters.

The cost of production by manual mining in the Bokaro opencast of Central Coalfields Limited is Rs. 600.23 per tonne in 2003-04.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) A tender was floated in August 2002 for deployment of surface miners at Dugga opencast of Bhatgaon area. This tender was cancelled on administrative grounds.

Installation of Coal Mines Safety Devices

1448. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that various experts have made recommendations to fulfil and install numerous coal mine safety devices and practices in our country;

(b) whether it is a fact that none of these recommendations have been implemented in the country;

(c) whether Government are aware of the huge loss of human life in periodic coal mine accidents in the country;